



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 11, 1998

### **H.R. 39**

### **African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 1997**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on May 21, 1998*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 39 would reauthorize, through fiscal year 2002, annual appropriations to the African Elephant Conservation Fund at the existing authorization level of up to \$5 million. The current authorization expires on September 30, 1998. The Secretary of the Interior uses this fund primarily to help finance research and conservation programs overseas. From its inception in 1991 through 1997, the fund has spent a total of nearly \$8 million in appropriated and donated funds.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 39 would result in additional discretionary spending of \$20 million over the 1999-2003 period. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 39 does not contain any intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The authorization level specified by the act is the same as the current authorization but about \$4 million higher than annual appropriations have been since this program's inception.

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized by H.R. 39 will be appropriated for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2002. Outlay estimates are based on historical spending patterns for this program. The estimated budgetary impact is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Spending Under Current Law						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	1	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	0	0	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	5	5	5	5	0
Estimated Outlays	0	3	4	5	5	3
Spending Under H.R. 39						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	1	5	5	5	5	0
Estimated Outlays	1	3	4	5	5	3

a. The 1998 level is the amount appropriated for that year.

The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 39 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On April 17, 1997, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 39, the African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 1997, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on April 16, 1997. Also, on May 29, 1998, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 627, a bill to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act, as ordered reported by

the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on May 21, 1998. The estimated costs of the three bills are identical.

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